

SS In-Touch – October

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **Welcome to Amanda Snobarger** who is Indiana's new School Counselor Consultant with the Indiana Department of Education. Amanda has worked most recently as a middle school counselor at Brownsburg East Middle School and has also held a counseling position at the elementary school level. Amanda is a two time graduate of Purdue University.

Amanda is excited about her position at the IDOE and is hopeful that she'll be able to serve as a resource and advocate for schools as well as an indirect source of positive change for students.

- **ISCA Elementary School Counselor Retreat** – The rejuvenation of the ISCA Elementary School Counselor Retreat was a resounding success. So successful, in fact, that plans are being made to continue the retreat again next year. Retreat organizer Marilyn Agee is writing up a full report for the next ISCA newsletter.
- **PSAT and 9th & 11th Grade Guidance Surveys** – The 2007 PSAT is Wednesday, October 17th and the state of Indiana is covering the cost of high school juniors (only) attending public and nonpublic accredited schools (including charter schools). Unfortunately, state funding for sophomores taking the PSAT is not available this year. As in the past, schools will be charged for answer sheets that indicate that the student is not junior - but schools will not be billed for unused tests. More information is available at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/super/2007/05-May/052507/2007-08PSATfunding.html>

Don't forget - while juniors are together for the PSAT many schools also administer the 11th Grade "Career and College" Guidance Surveys which will be arriving at high schools a few days before the PSAT. 9th grade surveys will also be arriving at the same time in boxes marked with bright yellow labels that say "ATTN: Director of Guidance."

Summaries of your school's results from last year's 9th & 11th Grade Career & College Guidance Surveys will be available online at www.learnmoreindiana.org by early next week.

- **High School Course Updates**
 - New high school course titles and descriptions have been submitted to the Indiana State Board of Education for approval for use in 2008-09. Schools may begin using the new courses to plan for next year while the formal promulgation process continues. You can find a list of the proposed course titles and descriptions, and explanations for the changes, at www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling under Hot Topics.
 - State approved course titles for International Baccalaureate courses are included on the lists.
 - A number of new World Language course titles have already been approved for use.
 - The rumor circulating that "Speech is now required for Core 40" is untrue. Components of speech, literature and composition have always been required for students earning an Indiana diploma...but a specific Speech course is not a state requirement for earning any of Indiana's diplomas.
 - Cooperative Education programs are now listed under ONE course title (no longer as separate "related" and "work experience" classes) and so should be listed only once on the transcript with one grade.
 - Be sure to read the new NCAA course requirements for this year's seniors which essentially requires Core 40 plus an additional three years of either more math, science, social studies, English, world languages, or nondoctrinal religion or philosophy.

- **New Elementary Guidance Lessons** will be posted on the IDOE School Counselor website in November. Powerpoints for classroom guidance lessons, activities and a simple career interest inventory, with pictures, will be available to Indiana elementary counselors.
- **Indiana SC Contact Information** – If you haven't provided your contact information to us this year, please do so at www.doe.state.in.us/counselorsurvey. It just takes a minute. Only 500 counselors have updated their information for this year. This information is used for all correspondence to Indiana school counselors.
- **Licensure Requirements for New School Counselors** can be confusing. If your school has hired a new school counselor and he or she has questions, have them contact us. Many new school counselors have not yet been connected with a certified counselor mentor. Step-by-step licensure instructions for new school counselors will be coming to the IDOE School Counselor website next month.
- **Still Time for Gold Star** – Your school can still participate in the Gold Star School Counseling program this year through an online series of Gold Star videos. Schools using the online video series submit a simple application, receive a Gold Star Steering Team Manual and watch the videos on computer during PBA/professional development days. If interested contact Matt at mfleck@doe.state.in.us for an application.

Workshops & Conferences

- ISCA Fall Conference – November 1-2 – Indianapolis Adams Mark – Register at <http://isca-in.org/>
- IACAC Fall Congress – October 14-16 – Indianapolis Downtown Marriott - Register at <http://www.iacac.net/>
- Indiana School Counselor Regional Workshops - www.doe.state.in.us/scworkshops
- SSACI Financial Aid Workshops – Register and get a detailed agenda at <http://www.in.gov/ssaci/counselorinformation/2007RegForm.html>
- College Board Fall Workshops - www.collegeboard.com/meetings (choose "Fall Counselor Workshop").
- Gaylon Nettle's State Attendance Workshops - <http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/sao-workshops07.html>

Resources

- **Learn More about Apprenticeships** – School counselors have two opportunities to learn more about apprenticeship programs in central Indiana. ISCA is sponsoring its popular apprenticeship tour during the ISCA Fall Pre-Conference session on November 1st. Central Indiana school counselors are also invited to an Apprenticeship Awareness Seminar on Tuesday, October 23rd at the Electrical Training Institute in Indianapolis. To attend the workshop, contact Dax Ramsey at constructionapprenticeships@hotmail.com by Monday, October 15th.
- Check out the **Lionheart Foundation's Power Source Program** designed to help high-risk youth find ways to acquire basic emotional literacy skills and constructively manage and heal anger, among other things, at http://www.lionheart.org/youth_proj/yar_powerSource.html

- **October 18th at Valle Vista Conference Center in Greenwood**
Headlining the event are Tom Mortenson, Senior Fellow of the Pell Institute and editor and publisher of *Postsecondary Education Opportunity*, and Margaret Terry Orr, author of the just published study of what works in improving access and success
<http://www.inpathways.net/conf07.htm>.

Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.state.in.us/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling under "Resources"

Direct questions or comments to Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – mfleck@doe.state.in.us or Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.state.in.us – 317-232-9136.